

Chapter 7

CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Finding a way to meet the need: Since 1998 the Cape Cod Conservation District (CCCD) has received more requests for assistance for stormwater remediation to clean up runoff affecting shellfish areas under the Conservation Technical Assistance Program than it could address. The Coastal Resources Committee of the Barnstable County Commission (BCC) also recognized the increasing problems affecting shellfish, degraded salt marshes, and anadromous fish passages, but it has limited resources to address them. The CCCD and the BCC requested assistance from NRCS on October 9, 2002, to try to address these concerns.

The NRCS Small Watershed Program is designed to “fill the gaps” and not replace or compete with existing programs. During the planning process it became apparent that the problems were many and NRCS help would be appreciated.

Project Sponsors

There are many local, state, and federal agencies that have direct interests and responsibilities for shellfish, salt marshes, and fish passages on Cape Cod. At the initiation of the planning process, NRCS met with local town officials, shellfish wardens, citizens, and state and federal agencies to further define the problems and collect existing information. This process led to establishing new partnerships and strengthening existing ones.

The initial Project sponsors are the CCCD and the BCC. The third sponsor is the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, representing the Office of Coastal Zone Management (salt marsh) and the Division of Marine Fisheries (shellfish and anadromous fish). Assistance from these state agencies has been crucial for data collection and analysis. Each of the 15 towns in Barnstable County was included as a Project sponsor since each site-specific project will be implemented and maintained by a town.

Public Participation

The Cape Cod Commission’s Regional Policy Plan and the EOEA Watershed Assessment and Action Plan both list stormwater runoff, fish passage, and salt marsh restoration as priority goals/objectives identified through their public surveys.

The Barnstable County Commission’s Coastal Resources Committee hosted an initial meeting in Barnstable on October 11, 2001. Support was unanimous for continued development of the Project under the Small Watershed Program to help restore the area’s natural resources. Over the next four years local, state, and federal officials were contacted for information and guidance. Several articles were published in newspapers informing the public of the problems and opportunities with restoring degraded salt marshes and anadromous fish runs, and improving water quality for shellfish beds. A public meeting was held on May 18, 2005, to seek public input on the watershed plan then in early stages of development.

The CCCD made over 400 mailings to citizens, town officials, and state and federal representatives informing them of the Project and asking for their opinions and support. The CCCD and NRCS

partnership also met individually with Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Tribe and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

Planning Team

An Interdisciplinary Planning Team provided for the “technical” administration of this Project. Technical administration includes tasks pursuant to the NRCS nine step planning process, and planning procedures outlined in the NRCS-National Planning Procedures Handbook. Examples of tasks completed by the planning team include, but are not limited to, Preliminary Investigations, Resource Inventorying, Analysis of Resource Data, Formulating and Evaluating Alternatives.

- More than 160 stormwater discharge sites were evaluated to determine if there is a feasible solution, delineate drainage area, check soils, and develop a cost estimate.
- Approximately 182 tidal restriction sites were evaluated to measure the existing culvert, estimate degree of restriction, identify any construction concerns (utilities, recent work, etc) and develop a cost estimate.
- Based on the DMF inventory of 93 obstructed or partially obstructed fish passages, the planning team worked with DMF to develop cost estimates and identify issues affecting fish passage improvements.

Data collected from partner agencies, databases, landowners, and others throughout the entire planning process were evaluated. Informal discussions among the planning team, partner agencies, and landowners were conducted throughout the entire planning period

Technical Advisory Group

The following organizations were involved in the development of this plan and provided technical support, information, data analysis, and guidance:

- Cape Cod Conservation District
- Cape Cod Commission
- Barnstable County Commissioners
- Barnstable County Coastal Resources Committee
- Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
- Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
- Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
- Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
- Massachusetts Highway Department
- National Park Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Buzzards Bay Project - National Estuary Program
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

- Town boards of health, natural resource departments, conservation commissions, shellfish wardens, and harbor masters.

Plan Review and Development

A Pre-Draft version of this Watershed Plan-Areawide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was submitted to the NRCS-National Water Management Center, Project Sponsors, Planning Team, Technical Advisory Group, and town resource staff for formal Interagency Review. A Federal Register Notice was published to advertise the availability of the Draft Plan and EIS for public review. After the 45-day public review period, comments received will be incorporated into the Final Watershed Plan - EIS.

**Table 7-1
Meetings for consultation and public involvement**

Date	Purpose	Participating organizations
10-11-2001	Initial public meeting to assess support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnstable County Commission's Coastal Resources Committee • Area Shellfishermen • Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries • Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Reserve • Brewster Natural Resources • Barnstable County Extension • Sandwich Conservation Commission • Coastal Management Shellfish Bed Restoration Program • Citizens • Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management • Dennis Natural Resources • Cape Cod Conservation District
11-2001	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Commissioners • Cape Cod Conservation District
1-2002	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congressmen Delahunt's staff • Cape Cod Conservation District
11-2002	Present the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Resources Committee • Cape Cod Conservation District
12-2002	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative Murray's staff
12-2002	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnstable County Shellfish Officers Committee • Cape Cod Conservation District
1-2003	Present the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Watershed Team

Date	Purpose	Participating organizations
2-2003	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
3-2003	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnstable County Commissioners • Cape Cod Conservation District
3-25-2003	Discuss anadromous fish habitat problems on Cape Cod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
5-2003	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator O’Leary’s staff • Cape Cod Conservation District
5-2003	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeast Regional Implementation Team of Coastal America
4-29-2003		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration • Department of Housing and Urban Development • U.S. Geological Survey • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs - River Restore • Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs - Wetland Restoration
11-12-2003	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
12-01-2004	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environmental Protection (Commissioner and Director of Southeast Regional Office)
12-2003	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape Cod Conservation District • Barnstable County Commissioners
2-10-2004	Discuss stormwater management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dennis and Yarmouth Departments of Public Works • Department of Natural Resources • Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management • Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
2-25-2004	CRC Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Barnstable County towns represented
4-14-2004	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Commissioners

Date	Purpose	Participating organizations
4-23-2004	Review of criteria for stormwater sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Shellfish Division Leaders
4-24-2004	Presentation on the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape Cod Museum of Natural History Members • Citizens
5-19-2004	Presentation on the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape Cod Commission: Planner and Groundwater Specialist
5-19-2004	Presentation on the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Bourne Selectmen • Department of Public Works • Conservation Commission • Bourne Department of Natural Resources
10-12-2004	Discuss salt marsh modeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salt Marsh Scientist Advisory Group
10-14-2004	Presentation on the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnstable County Shellfish Officers
10-18-2004	Presentation on the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal America Northeast Regional Implementation Team
11-03-2004	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape Cod Conservation District meeting with C. Young, J. Ryder at Congressman Delahunt's Quincy Office
3-9-2005	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnstable County Commissioners and Coastal Resources Committee • Cape Cod Conservation District
3-10-2005	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe: President and Vice President of Tribal Council (Marshall and Hendricks)
4-6-2005	Discuss the proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator O'Leary's staff • Senator Murray's staff • Cape Cod Conservation District
5-12-2005	Discuss the proposed Project and DEP models for embayments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environmental Protection Estuary Program

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